

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0545

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 06345

E.O. 11652

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: SPEECH IN LONDON BY EC COMMISSIONER GEORGE
THOMSON

BEGIN SUMMARY IN A SPEECH ON MAY 21 TO THE US
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN LONDON, EC COMMISSIONER GEORGE
THOMSON DISCUSSED US-EC RELATIONS, EC RENEGOTIATION
AND THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY' HE STRESSED THE NEED
FOR "PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA, SAID THAT
IT WAS REASONABLE TO HOPE FOR A "REALISTIC AND CON-
STRUCTIVE" OUTCOME OF BRITAIN'S RENEGOTIATION, AND
SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS LIKELY TO BECOME "MORE
PRAGMATIC AND MORE REALISTIC" THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE
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PAST. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER A DISCUSSION OF THE UNCERTAIN WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, THOMSON SAID HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS "A FALSE ANTITHESIS TO SAY THAT THERE MUST EITHER BE A COMMUNITY APPROACH OR AN ATLANTIC APPROACH "TO CURRENT PROBLEMS. "CERTAINLY, AS FAR AS EUROPE IS CONCERNED, BOTH APPROACHES ARE REQUIRED AND THE TASK OF STATESMANSHIP IS TO MAKE THEM CONSISTENT WITH EACH OTHER. THE MONETARY AND TRADE PROBLEMS CAN NO MORE BE SOLVED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ALONE THAN THEY CAN BY ANY SINGLE COUNTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THESE ARE GLOBAL MATTERS THAT CAN ONLY BE TACKLED GLOBALLY'. IN THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA TAKES ON A NEW IMPORTANCE IF WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER IS TO BE PRESERVED. BUT I HOPE THERE WILL BE A SYMPATHETIC APPRECIATION IN AMERICAN OPINION THAT, FOR THE NATIONS OF COMMUNITY EUROPE, THERE CAN BE NO REASONABLY EQUAL BARGAINING CAPACITY, EITHER WITH AMERICA OR JAPAN OR WITH THE THIRD WORLD, UNLESS THEY THEMSELVES HAVE A COMMON STAND"

2. ON RENEGOTIATION, THOMSON SAID THAT A NUMBER OF THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST MEMBERSHIP THAT WERE MADE DURING THE 1970-72 ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN "MADE IRRELEVANT" BY EVENTS, SOME BY CHANGES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND SOME BY THE "SHATTERING EXTERNAL CHANGES" IN THE WORLD ECONOMY. WHEN BRITAIN'S PARTNERS "COME TO PUT A PRICE ON THE ADVANTAGES OF TAKING THE ISSUE OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP ONCE AND FOR ALL OUT OF THE ARENA OF DOMESTIC PARTY POLITICS, AND WHEN THE BRITISH PEOPLE, FOR THEIR PART, COME TO COUNT THE COST OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOING IT ALONE IN OUR DANGEROUS MODERN WORLD, IT IS REASONABLE TO HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT A REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE AGREEMENT WILL BE PRACTICABLE."

3. ON THE FUTURE OF THE EC, THOMSON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS CRISIS MAY HAVE THE EFFECT OF WEAKENING AND DIVIDING THE COMMUNITY IN THE SHORT RUN, IT HAS "IMMENSELY INCREASED THE CASE FOR COMMUNITY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION IN THE LONG RUN." THERE IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO WORLD PROBLEMS THAT IS "BOTH MORE PRAGMATIC AND MORE REALISTIC THAN IN THE PAST." THERE MUST BE A MORE CONVINCING DIVISION BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD BE SOLVED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AND THOSE THAT CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY HANDLED BY A JOINT EFFORT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMUNITY'

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